

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 H-02 SSM-05
PA-02 SIG-03 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 SP-02
SS-15 SSO-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12 MCE-00 OMB-01 /107 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:WBHARRIS:RGH
APPROVED BY NEA/P:REUNDELAND
PA/PRS - MR. CARTER
H - MR. FLATEN
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW
NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER
NEA/ARP - MR. TWINAM
NEA/EGY - MR. NEWBERRY
NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH

-----005190 220053Z /14

O 212204Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USNATO
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AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
USCINCEUR
DOD
JCS
CIA
USICA
NSC
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW POUCH

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD, TEL AVIV FOR PAO, DELIVER BY 9 A.M.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - APRIL 21

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE
EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR APRIL 21, 1978.
FYI ONLY, SPOKESMAN TODAY WAS THOMAS RESTON.

MR. RESTON: ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN WILL VISIT
WASHINGTON APRIL 26 AND 27 FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH SECRETARY
VANCE ON MIDDLE EAST PEACE EFFORTS. THIS VISIT, WHICH
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HAD BEEN ORIGINALLY ENVISAGED FOR AN EARLIER TIME, WAS
DELAYED UNTIL APRIL 26-27 DUE TO SCHEDULING DIFFICULTIES;
AND THIS MEETING IS IN THE FRAMEWORK OF OUR CONTINUING
CONSULTATIONS WITH THE PARTIES.

AMBASSADOR ATHERTON WILL BE RETURNING TO WASHINGTON FROM
CAIRO SINCE IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES THE NEED FOR A STOP IN
ISRAEL HAS BEEN OVERTAKEN BY THE TALKS WHICH ARE TO TAKE
PLACE IN WASHINGTON WITH THE ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTER.

Q. DOES HE ALSO PLAN TO MEET THE PRESIDENT?

A. I DON'T KNOW. YOU WOULD HAVE TO ASK THE WHITE HOUSE.

Q. IS THERE ANYTHING YOU CAN RELATE ON BEGIN COMING
HERE? ANYTHING NEW ON THAT?

A. NO, I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING NEW FOR YOU ON THAT, AT
ALL.

Q. WILL DAYAN GO RIGHT BACK TO ISRAEL FROM WASHINGTON?

A. THAT IS MY UNDERSTANDING, BUT I AM REALLY NOT AWARE OF HIS PRECISE SCHEDULE. I THINK YOU SHOULD ASK THE ISRAELI EMBASSY.

Q. ARE THERE TWO DAYS OF TALKS, THEN, OR IS HE JUST COMING IN ONE DAY AND THE TALKS THE NEXT?

A. I AM NOT SURE ABOUT THAT. I DON'T KNOW THE LENGTH OF THE TALKS. I JUST HAVE THE TWO DATES FOR YOU. THE SCHEDULE IS NOT FIRMED UP YET. BUT HE WILL BE HERE THOSE TWO DAYS.

Q. IS THE ADMINISTRATION'S PLANE PACKAGE GOING UP TO THE HILL ON THE 26TH?
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A. YES.

Q. AND IT'S 30 DAYS FROM THAT DATE, THAT THE CONGRESS HAS TO ACT. IS THAT CORRECT?

A. I BELIEVE THAT IS CORRECT. IF I AM INCORRECT ABOUT THAT I WILL POST SOMETHING DIFFERENT.

Q. IS THAT WORKING DAYS, OR CALENDAR DAYS?

A. I WILL FIND OUT IF IT IS WORKING DAYS OR CALENDAR DAYS.

Q. IS IT TRUE THAT SENATOR BYRD ASKED THE ADMINISTRATION TO WITHHOLD SENDING UP THE LETTER UNTIL AFTER MAY 15?

A. I DON'T KNOW.

Q. WILL MR. ATHERTON RETURN IN TIME TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DISCUSSIONS WITH MR. DAYAN?

A. YES, HE WILL.

Q. WOULD HIS VISIT HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE PACKAGE PROPOSED TO THE ARABS AND ISRAELIS?

A. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING SPECIFIC ON THE AGENDA FOR THE TALKS. I THINK THE FOCUS FOR THE TALKS WILL BE OUR CONTINUING EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT A SOLUTION IN THE MIDDLE EAST. I COULDN'T RULE OUT THAT HE WILL TALK ABOUT AIRPLANES.

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Q. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO ADD TO THE STATEMENT BY SECRETARY STETSON, OF THE AIR FORCE, THAT THE U.S. MAY SELL MORE F-15'S TO SAUDI ARABIA?

A. LET ME SAY WITH REGARD TO THAT STORY THAT THE SAUDI ARABIAN REQUEST IS FOR 60 AIRCRAFT. THE ADMINISTRATION PROPOSAL TO PROVIDE THIS QUANTITY WAS MADE AFTER CAREFUL REVIEW OF ALL THE FACTORS INVOLVED IN THE SALE. WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY SAUDI PLANNING TO ACQUIRE ADVANCED AIRCRAFT BEYOND THE 60 F-15'S AND THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS NO PLAN TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL AIRCRAFT.

WE RECOGNIZE SAUDI ARABIA'S NEED TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE SELF-DEFENSE FOR ITSELF. THIS SALE AIMS AT HELPING PROVIDE THIS NEEDED SECURITY BUT THERE ARE NO PLANS TO PROVIDE ANYTHING BEYOND THE 60 F-15'S.

Q. YOU SAID THE F-15 IS CONSIDERED THE MOST ADVANCED PLANE INTERNATIONALLY. WHAT WOULD THEY BE ASKING FOR, MORE? B-1, OR WHAT?

A. THEY ARE NOT PLANNING TO ASK FOR ANYMORE AND THERE ARE NO PLANS TO PROVIDE THEM WITH ANY ADDITIONAL AIRCRAFT.

Q. OF THE SAME TYPE, DO YOU MEAN?

A. THEY ARE NOT PLANNING TO ACQUIRE ANY ADVANCED AIRCRAFT BEYOND THE 60, F-15'S.

NOW I AM NOT IN A POSITION TO SAY WHETHER THAT MEANS OTHER KINDS OF AIRCRAFT, OTHER THAN F-15'S BUT THERE ARE NO PLANS TO GO BEYOND THAT 60, F-15'S.

Q. WHILE YOU ARE ON THE SUBJECT OF THIS INTERVIEW GIVEN BY THE AIR FORCE SECRETARY, DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING UNCLASSIFIED

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TO SAY ON WHAT THE NATURE OF THE UNITED STATES COMMITMENT TO THE DEFENSE OF IRAN IS?

A. YES. THE U.S.-IRANIAN BILATERAL AGREEMENT OF COOPERATION OF MARCH 5, 1959, SAYS IN ARTICLE 1: "IN CASE OF AGGRESSION AGAINST IRAN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, WILL TAKE SUCH APPROPRIATE ACTION INCLUDING THE USE OF ARMED FORCES, AS MAY BE MUTUALLY AGREED UPON."

WE HAVE A DEEP INTEREST IN THE SECURITY OF THE PERSIAN GULF REGION, INCLUDING IRAN, AND THE OTHER LITERAL STATES. WE HAVE, OVER THE YEAR ASSISTED SOME OF THEM IN DEVELOPING THEIR SELF-DEFENSE CAPABILITIES WHICH SERVE THEIR OWN INTERESTS AND OURS AS WELL.

I THINK THE WORDS OF THE AGREEMENT ARE EXPLICIT.

Q. IS THERE NOT A SIMILAR AGREEMENT WITH SAUDI ARABIA?

A. I JUST DON'T KNOW. I CAN'T PULL THAT OUT OF MY HEAD. I WOULD HAVE TO CHECK THAT FOR YOU.

Q. I WONDER IF YOU WOULD, BECAUSE IT IS RELEVANT TO THE STORY.

A. SURE.

Q. WHEN YOU SAY, "IN CASE OF AGGRESSION AGAINST IRAN," IS THERE ANY GEOGRAPHIC AREA INCLUDED? AGGRESSION UNCLASSIFIED

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FROM WHERE? OR JUST AGGRESSION IN GENERAL?

A. I BELIEVE IT IS GENERALLY, BUT I AM NOT FAMILIAR ENOUGH WITH THE BILATERAL AGREEMENT OF COOPERATION TO ANSWER YOU PRECISELY.

Q. GENERAL MORDACHAI GUR, THE JUST-RETIRED CHIEF OF THE ISRAELI ARMED FORCES, IN AN INTERVIEW QUOTED THIS MORNING BY REUTERS, IN THE DAVAR NEWSPAPER IN ISRAEL, IS QUOTED AS SAYING THE ISRAELIS USED CBU'S TWO YEARS AGO AGAINST GUERRILLA TARGETS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON, AND HE IS FURTHER QUOTED AS SAYING, "I AM PERSONALLY CONVINCED WE DID NOT GO BEYOND THE UNDERSTANDING ABOUT THEIR USE," IN USING THESE CBU'S IN LEBANON. I TAKE IT THAT LAST COMMENT PROBABLY REFERS TO THE MORE RECENT INCIDENT. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON GENERAL GUR'S STATEMENT, OR ON THIS WHOLE CBU AFFAIR?

A. I THINK I DID SEE A PRESS REPORT THIS MORNING, OR IT WAS YESTERDAY AFTERNOON, OF A STATEMENT MR. WEIZMAN, THE DEFENSE MINISTER, HAD MADE ABOUT THE USE OF THIS PARTICULAR WEAPONS SYSTEM. BUT LET ME SAY THAT THE

ISRAELIS HAVE REAFFIRMED THEIR ACCEPTANCE OF RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF CLUSTER BOMB UNITS. WE WILL BE REPORTING ON THIS TO THE CONGRESS UNDER THE CASE ACT. CONTACTS WITH THE ISRAELIS ARE CONTINUING WITH A VIEW TO ASSURING THAT RESTRICTIONS WILL BE EFFECTIVE IN THE FUTURE.

Q. DID YOU EVER CONFIRM THAT YOU ARE SEEKING TIGHTER RESTRICTIONS THAN HAVE EXISTED UNTIL NOW?

A. NO, I DON'T BELIEVE SO.

Q. CAN YOU?
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A. I JUST DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT FOR YOU. CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

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